

# House Study Bill 618

HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON  
HUMAN RESOURCES BILL BY  
CHAIRPERSON UPMEYER)

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for the establishment of a viral hepatitis  
2 program and study.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:  
4 TLSB 6402HC 81  
5 rn/gg/l4

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1 1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 135.20A VIRAL HEPATITIS PROGRAM  
1 2 == VACCINATIONS AND TESTING == STUDY.  
1 3 1. If sufficient funds are appropriated by the general  
1 4 assembly, the department shall establish and administer a  
1 5 viral hepatitis program. The goal of the program shall be to  
1 6 distribute information to citizens of this state who are at an  
1 7 increased risk for exposure to viral hepatitis regarding the  
1 8 higher incidence of hepatitis C exposure and infection among  
1 9 these populations, the dangers presented by the disease, and  
1 10 contacts for additional information and referrals. The  
1 11 program shall also make available hepatitis A and hepatitis B  
1 12 vaccinations, and hepatitis C testing.  
1 13 2. The department shall establish by rule a list of  
1 14 individuals by category who are at increased risk for viral  
1 15 hepatitis exposure. The list shall be consistent with  
1 16 recommendations developed by the centers for disease control,  
1 17 and shall be developed in consultation with the Iowa viral  
1 18 hepatitis task force. The department shall also establish by  
1 19 rule what information is to be distributed and the form and  
1 20 manner of distribution. The rules shall also establish a  
1 21 vaccination and testing program, to be coordinated by the  
1 22 department through local health departments and clinics.  
1 23 3. The department shall conduct a seroprevalence study to  
1 24 provide an epidemiological profile of hepatitis C and to  
1 25 assess its current and future impact on the state. The  
1 26 department shall submit a report to the members of the general  
1 27 assembly by January 1, 2008, regarding the results of the  
1 28 study, and shall include a status report regarding the  
1 29 development and distribution of viral hepatitis information,  
1 30 and the results of the vaccination and testing program.

1 31 EXPLANATION  
1 32 This bill provides for the establishment of a viral  
1 33 hepatitis program by the Iowa department of public health,  
1 34 contingent upon the appropriation of sufficient funds by the  
1 35 general assembly. The objective of the program is to  
2 1 distribute information to citizens at increased risk for  
2 2 exposure to viral hepatitis regarding the higher incidence of  
2 3 hepatitis C exposure and infection among these populations,  
2 4 the dangers presented by the disease, and contacts for  
2 5 additional information and referrals. The bill also provides  
2 6 for hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccinations, and hepatitis C  
2 7 testing.  
2 8 The bill provides that the identification of categories of  
2 9 individuals considered at increased risk for hepatitis  
2 10 exposure, the form, manner, and method of distribution of  
2 11 hepatitis information, and the vaccination and testing  
2 12 program, shall be established by the department by rule.  
2 13 The bill additionally provides for a seroprevalence study  
2 14 to be conducted by the department. The study will provide an  
2 15 epidemiological profile of hepatitis C and assess its impact.  
2 16 The department is required to submit a report to the general  
2 17 assembly by January 1, 2008, regarding the results of the  
2 18 study, and include a status report regarding the development

2 19 and distribution of the viral hepatitis information, and the  
2 20 results of the vaccination and testing program.  
2 21 LSB 6402HC 81  
2 22 rn:nh/gg/14